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NORTH CAROLINA

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1951

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED 1951 TOBACCO ACREAGE?
2. IS PEANUT ACREAGE EXPECTED TO INCREASE OR DECREASE IN 1951?
3. HOW MANY HOGS WERE SLAUGHTERED IN NORTH CAROLINA IN FEBRUARY?
4. DISCUSS THE 1951 CROP OUTLOOK FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
5. WHAT WAS THE FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION PER COW?
6. COMPARE FEBRUARY BROILER PLACEMENTS WITH JANUARY.
7. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED 1951 CORN ACREAGE?
8. COMPARE EXPECTED 1951 POTATO ACREAGE WITH LAST YEAR.
9. HOW MANY ACRES OF SOYBEANS WILL BE PLANTED THIS YEAR?
10. HOW DOES EXPECTED HAY ACREAGE COMPARE WITH 1950 ACREAGE?

No. 81

RALEIGH, N. C.

MARCH 23, 1951

MARCH GENERAL FARM REPORT AND 1951 INTENTIONS TO PLANT

CROP OUTLOOK FOR 1951

If North Carolina farmers carry out their intentions to plant as reported around March 1, the total acreage of spring planted crops, excluding cotton, will be about 1 percent greater than was planted during 1950. Estimates of the acreage seeded to cotton will not be available until July 9.

According to reports from growers, North Carolina will have larger acreages of sorghums, tobacco, soybeans and hay crops. Off-setting these increases will be smaller acreages of corn, oats, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, cowpeas and peanuts.

Actual plantings may turn out to be larger or smaller than indicated by reason of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions, the agricultural program and the effect of this report itself upon farmers' actions. The acreage actually planted to peanuts may vary from the intentions expressed here as a result of changes in allotments to farmers, which was still an unsettled question at the time this report was made.

The expressed intentions of farmers to plant tobacco indicated about a 12 percent increase in total flue-cured acreage in the State. This compares with an increase in allotments of approximately 14.8 percent. Weather-

(Continued on Page 2)

MILK PRODUCTION FOR FEBRUARY AT RECORD HIGH LEVEL

The record high level of milk production on farms in North Carolina established in 1950 has continued into the early months of 1951. February production totaled an estimated 122 million pounds, the highest production of record for this month.

Compared to last month, production dropped 7 million pounds but even at that it was 10 million pounds greater than for February a year ago.

The seasonal pattern of milk production during past years for this State has established February as the month of lowest production in the yearly cycle. This would mean that production should begin to climb for the next few months.

A slight increase in the number of milk cows on farms occurred in February and now totals 381,000 head, including both dry and milked animals. Milk production per cow in herds averaged 320 pounds during February which is a record high production per cow for this month.

(Continued on Page 2)

BROILER PLACEMENTS UP 22%

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina placed a total of 1,874,000 chicks with broiler producers in the Chatham-Wilkes commercial broiler areas during February. This was an increase of 22 percent over January placements and 14 percent more than the 1,650,000 chicks placed during February a year ago.

The 2,762,000 eggs placed in incubators during the month by hatcherymen serving the two areas were 16,000 less than January settings but 7 percent more than the number set during February 1950.

Hatchings totalled 2,048,000 chicks during February -- an increase of 13 percent over January hatchings and 12 percent greater than the February hatch last year.

Broiler demand and prices strengthened considerably for the second straight month since hitting a season's low of 21 cents per pound in December. Prices rose from 26 cents per pound (FOB Farm) the first of the month to 30 cents per pound at month's end.

NORTH CAROLINA POTATO ACREAGE BELOW 1950 PLANTINGS



POTATO ACREAGE DOWN SHARPLY

Based on March 1 intentions reports, a total of 54,000 acres of potatoes will be planted for harvest in North Carolina in 1951. This is a 16 percent reduction from the 64,000 acres planted in 1950 and 33 percent less than the 10-year (1940-49) average.

Growers in the "commercial early" area currently expect to plant 17,000 acres of potatoes. A crop of this size would be 34 percent less than the 25,700 acres grown last year and the smallest acreage planted since records were begun in 1924.

MILK PRODUCTION (*Continued*)

Winter pastures have not afforded the heavy grazing realized during the preceding two years. Even so, management and feeding practices held milk production at a high level during the winter months. The last week of February was mild and old and new pastures were beginning to take on color, and provided weather conditions are favorable should provide some green feed soon.

WOOL RECEIPTS AND PRODUCTION INCREASE

Wool production in North Carolina in 1950 totalled 162,000 pounds, up 12 percent from 1949 production. The number of sheep shorn in the state at 30,000 was the same as for the preceding year but the weight per fleece increased from 4.8 pounds in 1949 to 5.4 pounds.

Cash receipts from sale of wool totalled \$84,000 compared with 1949 receipts of \$71,000. Wool prices in 1950 averaged 52 cents per pound compared with an average price of 49 cents per pound received by producers a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES WOOL PRODUCTION - 1949-1950

YEAR	SHEEP SHORN No. 1	WT. PER FLEECE	PRODUC- TION SHORN WOOL	PRICE PER LB.	CASH RECEIPTS
	THOUS.	LBS.	LBS.	CENTS	THOUS. DOL.
NORTH CAROLINA					
1949	30	4.8	144	49	71
1950	30	5.4	162	52	84
UNITED STATES					
1949	26,975	8.04	216,878	49.4	107,137
1950	27,150	8.11	220,135	57.3	126,171

1/ Includes sheep shorn in commercial feeding yards.

WHEAT ACREAGE INCREASES

Based upon preliminary reports received from wheat producers last fall, it is estimated that 436,000 acres of the crop have been planted in North Carolina for the 1951 season. This estimate, however, was released last December. Such an acreage compares with 415,000 acres planted for the 1950 season and 375,000 acres harvested in 1950.

An estimate of farmers' intended harvested acreage for the coming season will be available about May 10. A preliminary estimate of production for grain, however, will be released about April 10.

CROP OUTLOOK (*Continued*)

er conditions, plant supplies and a decreasing labor supply are factors which will have definite bearings on the actual acreage planted.

Following a rather severe winter, the change to warmer weather about the middle of February has resulted in a considerable increase in the activity on farms along with a slightly brighter outlook for growing crops. Rainfall during the winter months was somewhat spotty, and in many areas farmers have been troubled with dry soil conditions.

Sub-soil moisture supplies are unusually low in some southern Piedmont and southeastern counties. However, recent rains have alleviated most of these dry conditions and State-wide soil conditions are generally favorable.

Reports from growers throughout the State indicate that fall seeded grain crops suffered some winter freeze damage, particularly that portion of the acreage which was seeded late in the fall. However, the low winter temperatures have had a hardening effect on small grain plants. This has prevented excessive growth, and these crops should be in a much better position to withstand any late spring freezes than was the case last year.

Late fall seeded pastures suffered rather heavy damage in many sections of the State along with new seedings of alfalfa. The damage seems to have been limited mostly to the acreage which was seeded late and did not have an opportunity to get a good start prior to the cold weather.

On an average, tobacco plant beds were seeded a little later than usual due to the cold weather. However, plants are now coming up, and adequate plant supplies are in prospect to plant the increased acreage unless later losses are sustained.

About 75 percent of the commercial early Irish potato acreage was planted prior to March 1. The acreage is considerably smaller than that planted a year ago.

SLIGHT DECREASE IN CORN ACREAGE

North Carolina farmers have indicated they will plant 2,203,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 1951. This is 2.0 percent less than the 2,248,000 acres planted in 1950 and 4.1 percent less than the 1940-1949 average acreage planted.

Higher corn yields per acre have probably been an important factor in influencing farmers' decisions to plant slightly less corn in 1951. Hence, farmers are producing the same amount or more corn on fewer acres to meet livestock feed requirements.

TOBACCO ACREAGE TO INCREASE

On the basis of March 1 reports from growers, it is estimated that 712,000 acres will be set to flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina this year. A flue-cured tobacco crop of this size would exceed the 636,000 acres harvested last year by about 12 percent. The indicated increase is about the same for all types of flue-cured tobacco.

Growers of Type 11 tobacco have indicated they would set 280,000 acres. This represents an increase of 30,000 acres or 12.0 percent above the acreage harvested last year.

Growers of Type 12 tobacco report intentions to set 344,000 acres, which is also 12.0 percent more than the 307,000 acres harvested in 1950.

Type 13 growers have indicated they would set 88,000 acres as compared to 79,000 acres last year. This would be an increase of 11.0 percent over the 1950 crop.

Growers of burley tobacco (Type 31) report intentions to set 10,800 acres this year as compared to 10,000 acres last year.

PROSPECTIVE PEANUT ACREAGE LOWEST SINCE 1933

If growers carry out their March intentions, they will plant 234,000 acres of peanuts (alone for all purposes) in 1951. A crop of this size would be 5 percent less than the 1950 acreage and the smallest acreage planted to peanuts in North Carolina since 1933.

The acreage actually planted to peanuts may vary from intentions expressed here as a result of changes in allotments to farmers, which was still an unsettled question when this report was made.

Allotment allotments for the commercial crop in 1951 are now set at 16.5 percent below the 1950 allotted acreage. Growers will be allowed to plant up to their 1947 base acreage, however, the excess over allotments to be sold for oil at the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture.

SWEETPOTATO ACREAGE DOWN 15%

Reports from growers as of March 1 indicate they intend to reduce sweetpotato acreage 15 percent in 1951. If these intentions materialize, 50,000 acres of sweetpotatoes will be planted for harvest in the State this year, compared with 59,000 acres harvested last year.

A crop of this size would be 28 percent less than the 1940-49 average acreage and the second smallest acreage devoted to sweetpotatoes since 1875.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTING FOR 1951

CROPS	NORTH CAROLINA						UNIT OF YIELD	UNITED STATES						
	AVERAGE 1940-1949		ACREAGE PLANTED			1951 % OF 1950		AVERAGE 1940-1949		ACREAGE PLANTED			1951 % OF 1950	
	ACREAGE PLANTED	YIELD PER PLANTED ACRE	1950	INDICATED 1951	TON			ACREAGE PLANTED	YIELD PER PLANTED ACRE	1950	INDICATED 1951	TON		
	(000)	UNITS	(000)	(000)	%			(000)	UNITS	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	
CORN, ALL.....	2,297	25.4	2,248	2,203	98	Bu.	89,481	33.3	84,370	85,694	101.6			
OATS.....	420	21.3	506	496	98	Bu.	43,510	30.1	46,642	44,191	94.7			
BARLEY.....	45	19.7	46	40	87	Bu.	14,281	21.6	13,235	11,413	86.2			
ALL HAY*.....	1,238	1.01	1,140	1,151	101	Ton	74,845	1.36	75,741	75,656	99.9			
SWEETPOTATOES.....	68	107	59	50	85	Bu.	671.9	91.5	572.9	443.9	77.5			
POTATOES.....	80	117	64	54	84	Bu.	2,624.6	160.6	1,866.0	1,589.6	85.2			
TOBACCO*.....														
TYPE 11.....	246.4	1,012	250.0	280.0	112	Lbs.	339.5	1,022	344.0	388.0	113			
TYPE 12.....	310.6	1,133	307.0	344.0	112	Lbs.	310.6	1,133	307.0	344.0	112			
TYPE 13.....	74.1	1,112	79.0	88.0	111	Lbs.	182.9	1,108	193.0	217.0	112			
ALL FLUE CURED*.....	631.1	1,083	636.0	712.0	112	Lbs.	935.9	1,074	954.5	1,075.1	113			
TYPE 31 (BURLEY).....	9.3	1,354	10.0	10.8	108	Lbs.	425.6	1,135	405.3	443.4	109			
ALL TOBACCO*.....	640.4	1,087	646.0	722.8	112	Lbs.	1,612.7	1,100	1,593.9	1,745.0	109.5			
SOYBEANS**.....	388	.	418	439	105	-	12,266	-	14,704	13,772	93.7			
COWPEAS**.....	110	.	49	40	82	-	2,043	-	1,089	941	86.4			
PEANUTS**.....	296	.	246	234	95	-	3,666	-	2,752	2,614	95.0			
SORGHUMS, ALL PURPOSE.....	31	.	55	61	111	-	16,024	-	16,587	12,540	75.6			

* Acreage harvested.

** Grown alone for all purposes -- partly duplicated in hay acreage.

LARGER SOYBEAN ACREAGE INDICATED

Based on March 1 intentions reports a 5 percent increase in soybeans grown alone for all purposes is in prospect for 1951. This would be a total of 439,000 acres for this year compared to 418,000 acres in 1950 and the 10-year average of 388,000 acres.

The intended acreage for 1951 will be the second largest of record with a high of 495,000 acres being reached in 1943. Except for the year 1949, acreage for this crop has shown sharp increases since 1946. Interest in the crop has spread to practically all areas of the State and made rather strong gains in 1950 in Coastal Areas as a result of acreage controls on corn and cotton in certain counties as well as in Piedmont counties where an optional wheat control program was in effect. Small grain farmers are gradually showing interest in the production of this crop since it fits well into their grain production program and means more efficient use of machinery and equipment.

Prospective acreage for the Nation as a whole as of March 1 was indicated to be 13,772,000 acres of soybeans alone for all purposes compared to 14,704,000 acres in 1950.

N. C. OATS ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

The total acreage of oats seeded in North Carolina for the 1951 crop year is estimated at 496,000 acres. This is 2 percent less than the 506,000 acres planted for all purposes a year earlier and compares with the 10-year average of 420,000 acres planted.

The Nation's planted crop for the 1951 season is 5 percent below that of 1950 and 1.6 percent above average.

PROSPECTIVE HAY ACREAGE SHOWS INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR

A slight increase in total hay acreage for North Carolina is indicated for 1951, according to reports received from farmers relative to their planting intentions for crops as of March 1. Prospective acreage of all hay for the coming year is estimated at 1,151,000 acres -- an increase of 1 percent from the 1,140,000 acres harvested in 1950. However, this is the second smallest total hay acreage indicated for the State since 1941.

Most of this slight increase over last year in prospective hay acreage for 1951 will be the result of larger grain crops this season. This will mean a larger lespedezza hay crop for harvest than in 1950. Although some increases are indicated for most other hays, it is the prospects for a larger lespedezza hay acreage that accounts for most of the increase in total hay acreage.

SORGHUM ACREAGE UP

The acreage to be devoted to all sorghums in the State this year is currently estimated at 61,000 acres, which is 6,000 acres above 1950. The increase in acreage is largely attributed to the spreading popularity of milo or combine sorghums.

Nationally, an increase of 24 percent over last year is expected in the acreage of all sorghums.

The net income realized by farm operators in 1950 was the lowest of the postwar period, according to preliminary estimates. The total of \$13 billion was down 8 percent from 1949 and 27 percent below the 1947 peak.

BARLEY ACREAGE DROPS

On a basis of reports from barley growers in the State, 40,000 acres of the crop were planted for the current year. This is a 6,000-acre decline from that planted during the previous season and compares with the 10-year average of 45,000 acres.

The planted acreage for the United States for 1951 is estimated to be 14 percent below last year.

1950 EGG PRODUCTION UNCHANGED FROM PRECEDING YEAR

A total of 1,009 million eggs were produced in North Carolina during 1950. This was the same number as produced during the preceding year.

The average number of layers in farm flocks during the year at 7,398,000 was an increase of almost 1 percent over the average number of layers on farms in 1949. However, a slight decrease in the rate of lay resulted in total production remaining the same for the two years.

NORTH CAROLINA MONTHLY EGG PRODUCTION

	1949-1950		EGGS PRODUCED	
	AV. NUMBER OF LAYERS	EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		
	1949	1950	1949	1950
	THOUSANDS	NUMBER	MILLIONS	
JAN.	7,725	7,978	899	905
FEB.	7,723	8,066	1,145	1,103
MAR.	7,721	7,800	1,631	1,556
APR.	7,364	7,356	1,728	1,710
MAY	7,008	7,088	1,690	1,680
JUNE	6,830	6,910	1,413	1,374
JULY	6,562	6,644	1,252	1,271
AUG.	6,472	6,642	1,076	1,141
SEPT.	7,005	7,173	900	948
OCT.	7,627	7,528	815	825
NOV.	7,982	7,706	657	642
DEC.	8,068	7,882	682	611
YEAR	7,341	7,398	1,374	1,364
			1,009	1,009

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Bureau of Agricultural Economics
S. R. Jewell, Assistant Chief
 and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballantine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
 Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
R.B. Converse, Statistician, Acting in Charge
Donald B. Jones, Statistical Editor

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
 CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

ORIGINAL INFORMATION DIRECT FROM
 FARMERS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Bureau of Agricultural Economics
 Raleigh, N. C.

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 WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARCH 23, 1951

FARM REPORT

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FEBRUARY, 1951, WEATHER SUMMARY

The arrival of February brought no relief from the wintry conditions common during much of the previous two months in North Carolina. In fact, a cold wave spread eastward to the coast on the 1st and 2nd dropping temperatures to some of the lowest levels of the winter season. Three additional periods of cold weather followed with the lowest temperatures occurring, in general, on the 8th, 16th and 24th. Snow blanketed coastal areas on the 3rd with depths up to 4 inches in some areas. Snow fell again in most of the State on the 9th, resulting in icy highways and streets in some interior sections. Strong winds occurred on several days during the month. Tornadic-like winds moved across small areas in Winston-Salem and near Greensboro on the 1st, causing an estimated \$2,000 damage in Winston-Salem alone.

Sub-zero temperatures were reported in higher mountain sections during the cold weather at the beginning of the month. The morning of the 4th was about the coldest with a temperature of 10 degrees common in the Piedmont and interior Coastal Plains. A trend toward warmer began on the 12th, and resulted in considerably warmer weather during the latter half of the month. New record-high temperatures were established on several different days with readings in the upper 70's. For the entire month, temperatures averaged from 2 to 3 degrees above long-time averages.

Total precipitation amounts were less than long-time averages in just about all areas of the State this month. The departures amounted to over 2 inches in much of the Piedmont and Coastal Plains. The precipitation that did occur was well distributed with some falling in each week.

NORTH CAROLINA & UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER JANUARY, 1950-1951 *

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
CATTLE ...	6.4	8.8	5,432	7,180	1,509.5	1,579.8	1,446,685	1,561,349
CALVES...	4.4	4.3	680	755	801.8	758.8	157,619	147,691
HOGS.....	34.0	46.0	8,032	10,311	7,023.0	7,884.4	1,697,110	1,930,478
SHEEP & LAMBS....	.1	.1	9	9	1,169.3	1,132.4	116,561	112,733

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

MEAT PRODUCTION UP SHARPLY

Commercial meat production in North Carolina during January totalled 18,255,000 pounds. Production was up 29 percent from January a year ago and 32 percent over December 1950 output.

Compared with the same month a year earlier, the 8,800 head of cattle slaughtered during January of this year was an increase of 37 percent while beef production was up 32 percent.

The 4,300 calves slaughtered were

2 percent under slaughter in January 1950 but due to a 21 pound increase in average liveweight, veal production was up 11 percent.

January slaughter of 46,000 hogs showed a 30 percent increase over December and was 35 percent over January a year ago. Pork production at 10,311,000 pounds was up 28 percent from the preceding January.

Lamb and mutton production in January showed no change from January 1950.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING FEBRUARY, 1951

